

M. M. ROBERTS.

MARCH 23, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. TAPPAN, from the Committee on Claims, made the following
REPORT.

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of M. M. Roberts, "praying to be refunded money expended by him in endeavoring to recover stolen property," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report :

That claimant alleges he was a deputy collector of the customs for the district of Champlain in the year 1842 ; and while acting as said deputy collector, he seized for illegal importations into the United States one pair of gray mares appraised at \$150 ; that he placed the said property for safe-keeping in a barn, and that during the night the barn was broken open and the mares stolen. Claimant further alleges that he employed two persons to search for the stolen property, to whom he paid forty dollars, and that his own personal expenses were nineteen dollars, total, fifty-nine dollars, which he asks may be refunded him. There is no evidence establishing the truth of any of these allegations, but if they be admitted to be true, there would be no claim against the government. If he paid out fifty-nine dollars, without any authority from the government, to recover property appraised at one hundred and fifty, and in which he had an equal interest with the government, provided it had been legally seized, he paid it at his own individual cost, and has no shadow of claim against the government. Your committee therefore report back the petition, and recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be not granted.

M. M. ROBERTS.

MARCH 27, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. TAPPAN, from the Committee on Claims, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of M. M. Roberts, praying to be reimbursed money expended by him in endeavoring to recover stolen property, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:

That claimant alleges he was a deputy collector of the customs for the district of Columbia in the year 1842; and while acting as said deputy collector, he aided for illegal importations into the United States one pair of ivory tusks appraised at \$150; that he placed the said property in a safe-deposit in a barn, and that during the night the barn was broken open and the tusks stolen. Claimant further alleges that he employed two persons to search for the stolen property, to whom he paid fifty dollars each, and that his own personal expenses were nineteen dollars, total, fifty-nine dollars, which he asks may be reimbursed him. There is no evidence establishing the truth of any of these allegations, but if they be admitted to be true, there would be no claim against the government. If he paid out fifty-nine dollars without any authority from the government to recover property expended at one hundred and fifty, and in which he had an equal interest with the government, provided it had been legally seized, he paid it at his own individual cost, and has no shadow of claim against the government. Your committee therefore report back the petition, and recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be not granted.